

AAC Says Lettuce OK

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A spokesman for Anaconda Aluminum Company labeled as "bordering on the absurd" the statements which appeared in last week's Hungry Horse News on the subject of fluoride content of local lettuce, and as revealing on the part of the source of information a basic lack of knowledge of the complex subject of fluorides.

The statements were said to be so basically erroneous as to suggest the employment of "scare tactics."

One major error noted by AAC was the reliance upon a

standard developed for cattle in referring to "acceptable amounts" of fluorides for humans. AAC stressed that no scientific relationship has been established between safe intake levels of cattle and humans. Moreover, the cattle standards, it was observed, assumes that each and every pound of the 30 to 40 pounds of food eaten daily by cattle must contain more than 35 parts per million of fluoride before adverse effects should be expected in cattle. That should be compared with the

small part that consumption of lettuce plays in the total diet of the average person.

Dr. Michael Treshow of the University of Utah, who has had years of experience in working with fluorides has advised AAC that utilizing the most respected data available

on the subject of safe levels for humans, and also using the levels of fluoride reported in last week's article an average person would have to consume more than 10 pounds of lettuce each and every day for the next 10 years before he might have reason to be concerned about his intake of fluorides.

AAC has no present information or opinion concerning the reliability of sampling and analytical methods being employed by others locally. The AAC spokesman stated that a meeting would be sought with Dr. Gordon and his associates in the near future to review their sampling and analytical methods.